

Twice ahead Robins let it slip

**WYCOMBE WAND 3
CARSHALTON ATH 2**

IF Gary Allen had been playing instead of injured, Thursday's Isthmian League Premier Division match could so easily have gone the other way.

It was Robins' first visit to the slopes of Loakes Park and they made quite an impression on the large crowd. In fact, they led twice and might have taken the points if they had attacked to more purpose, writes Fred Philpot.

The visitors made a dream start with a gift-wrapped goal in their first attack after just five minutes when John Roseman, deputising for Allen, pounced on a shocking back pass to beat the stranded Peter Spittle.

However, the lead was short lived and Wanderers were back on terms within two minutes when Graham Mackenzie equalised with the best goal of the match after good work by Derek Harris.

Wycombe were pushing up in force, but when Carshalton did get in quickly they usually won the day against a rearguard that looked suspect despite the presence of Alan Phillips and Paul Birdseye.

COUNTER-ATTACK

They were always vulnerable to the quick counter-thrust and it happened again in the 22nd minute when Tony Maurice broke up a home attack to set Robin Kember on his way with a great ball and the midfielder took his chance in style, giving Robins nine goals from their last three games.

This reverse spurred the home side to come at Robins who were pinned in their own half for long spells when a more offensive Carshalton view might have paid off, for a third goal would surely have killed home hopes.

However, some great defensive work by skipper Gaydon, plus a couple of magnificent saves by Ian Finch kept the home side at bay for almost 40 minutes.

Then came a double killer blow with two Wycombe goals inside three minutes.

It began with a corner in the 59th minute when Keith Mead hooked home in a crowded goalmouth and ended two minutes later when unlucky Bob Addaway headed a cross into his own net for the winner when the ball could so easily have spun off to safety.

The visitors went back on to attack and might have had a penalty when Phillips appeared to handle. In addition, Steve Bangs had a header scooped off the line while Graham Dennis watched another ball scrambled clear with Spittle well beaten. It seemed to indicate that a more adventurous policy from Robins might have paid off earlier.

And Carshalton suffered a further blow near the end when Dennis was rather harshly booked for dissent.

Wycombe.—Spittle, Birdseye, Priestley, Mead, Phillips, Day, Mackenzie, Kennedy, Harris, Holifield, Horseman.

Carshalton.—Finch, Maurice, Bangs, Addaway, Gaydon, Kember, Roseman, Dade, Dennis, Walker, Gedney.